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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,400	12/22/2000	Roland Radtke	60001.0002US01	8785

27488 7590 02/07/2007  
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)  
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EXAMINER
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PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/07/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/747,400

Applicant(s)

RADTKE ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9-12,16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9-12,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) on 11/20/06. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12, the cancellation of claims 13-15 and the addition of new claims 16 and 17. All pending claims have been rejected in view of prior art disclosed.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not properly convey, ***"removing the third static information tip and the error marker"***.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

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3. Claims 7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims disclose functional descriptive material but not in combination with an appropriate computer readable medium. The computer readable medium must be a physical structure, not a signal, which allows for a computer to carry out the functionality.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,341,359 B1 (Aiken et al.), herein referred to as Aiken.

Referring to claim 1, Aiken discloses a computing device that displays static information tips for data fields (Figures 1 and 3). The user interface of Aiken displays a plurality of data fields including a first and second data field (Figures 12). Aiken discloses the user accessing the first input field for inputting, this input process involving an indication of focusing on a first data field by placement of the cursor on that data field (column 6, lines 28-30). The inputting of a parameter onto the first data field involves placement of the cursor onto the data field. During the process of focusing on the data field, a first static information tip is displayed proximate to the first data field (column 6, lines 27-36). Aiken discloses that the static tip is displayed as the user is inputting each

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key or data item, therefore not interrupting data input into the first data field (column 7, lines 16-17), there as the user is inputting the static information tip is displayed to the user. Aiken discloses accessing another second data field, by inputting parameters into a second data field through which an indication is received focusing on the second data field and inputting the parameter involving placement of a cursor on the second data field (column 13, lines 4-25). Aiken discloses that the first static information tip is hidden from view with Figure 18 hiding the previous first static information tip that is displayed in Figure 16. Aiken discloses that in response to the user inputting and focusing on the second data field, a second static information tip proximate to the second data field is displayed (Figure 18). The first static information tip is displayed until the focus has moved onto another second data field. During the information inputting into the first data field, a determination is made as to whether the parameter is erroneous and if so a further refocus is made to the first data field, by highlighting the data field (column 6, lines 27-34). A static information tip proximate to the first data field is displayed in order to correct the error that has been determined, with the information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the first data field (column 14, lines 48-61). Aiken does not clearly state the display of another third static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the third static information tip proximate to the first data field would be different from the first static information tip. Aiken discloses the use of various assistance components as per the input by the user and the appropriate parameter that is considered valid at a first data

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field. Aiken further discloses as shown in Figures 3 and 12, how the same variables accepted within an input field when inputted erroneously can be displayed with varying types of static information tips based on the specific input of the user. Aiken does take into consideration the user input and display static information tips that are different from one another to display the error that would help in correcting the user's current input. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to display third static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field to correct any errors found in the first data field.

Referring to claims 3 and 9, Aiken discloses entering receiving data in the second data field (column 13, lines 4-25). Aiken discloses determining whether the data entered in the second data field is erroneous (column 14, lines 36-42). Aiken discloses if the data received in the second data field is erroneous, focusing on the second data field, where Aiken discloses that the input data field with the error is automatically giving a highlight focus (column 6, lines 27-34). Aiken discloses displaying a fourth static information tip proximate to the second data field that does not interrupt corrective input into the second data field (column 14, lines 55-59). Aiken does not clearly state the display of another fourth static tip that is different from the second static information tip that is displayed proximate to the second data field. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the fourth static information tip proximate to the second data field would be different from the second static information tip. Aiken discloses the use of various assistance components as per the input by the

user and the appropriate parameter that is considered valid at a first data field. Aiken further discloses as shown in Figures 3 and 12, how the same variables accepted within an input field when inputted erroneously can be displayed with varying types of static information tips based on the specific input of the user. Aiken does take into consideration the user input and display static information tips that are different from one another to display the error that would help in correcting the user's current input. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to display fourth static tip that is different from the second static information tip that is displayed proximate to the second data field to correct any errors found in the second data field.

Referring to claims 4 and 10, Aiken discloses displaying an error marker proximate to the first data field to indicate the data received in the first data field is erroneous (Figure 12A), where the indication of the error with the static information tip including an error marker.

Referring to claims 5 and 11, Aiken discloses displaying an error marker proximate to the first and second data fields to indicate the data received in the first and the second data fields is erroneous (Figures 12), where the indication next to first and second data input fields of the errors within these fields include error markers.

Referring to claim 6, Aiken discloses a computing device for displaying a static information tip and an error marker (Figures 1 and 3). Aiken discloses receiving an indication of focusing on a first data field, wherein the indication includes placement of a cursor on the first data field (column 6, lines 28-30). The inputting of a

parameter onto the first data field involves placement of the cursor onto the data field. During the process of focusing on the data field, a first static information tip is displayed proximate to the first data field (column 6, lines 27-36). Aiken discloses that the static tip is displayed as the user is inputting each key or data item, therefore not interrupting data input into the first data field (column 7, lines 16-17), there as the user is inputting the static information tip is displayed to the user. Aiken discloses automatically focusing on the second data field, where the dependent data field representing the second data field is automatically accessible to the user for focusing, leading to inputting into the dependent data field (reference number 1406, Figure 14). Aiken discloses that the first static information tip is hidden from view with Figure 18 hiding the previous first static information tip that is displayed in Figure 16. During the information inputting into the first data field, a determination is made as to whether the parameter is erroneous and if so a further refocus is made to the first data field, by highlighting the data field (column 6, lines 27-34). The placement of the static information tip includes an error marker, with tip including marker symbols (Figure 12A). The refocusing of the first data field, involves bringing additional focusing automatically through highlighting to bring to attention the errors of the first data field (column 7, lines 43-45). A static information tip proximate to the first data field is displayed in order to correct the error that has been determined, with the information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the first data field (column 14, lines 48-61). Aiken does not clearly state the display of another second static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at



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the time of the invention that the second static information tip proximate to the first data field would be different from the first static information tip. Aiken discloses the use of various assistance components as per the input by the user and the appropriate parameter that is considered valid at a first data field. Aiken further discloses as shown in Figures 3 and 12, how the same variables accepted within an input field when inputted erroneously can be displayed with varying types of static information tips based on the specific input of the user. Aiken does take into consideration the user input and display static information tips that are different from one another to display the error that would help in correcting the user's current input. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to display second static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field to correct any errors found in the first data field.

Referring to claim 7, Aiken disclosing a computer with instructions for displaying static information tips for data fields (Figures 1 and 3). The user interface of Aiken displays a plurality of data fields including a first and second data field (Figures 12). Aiken discloses the user accessing the first input field for inputting, this input process involving an indication of focusing on a first data field by placement of the cursor on that data field (column 6, lines 28-30). The inputting of a parameter onto the first data field involves placement of the cursor onto the data field. During the process of focusing on the data field, a first static information tip is displayed proximate to the first data field (column 6, lines 27-36). Aiken discloses that the static tip is displayed as the user is inputting each key or data item, therefore not interrupting data input into the first data

field (column 7, lines 16-17), there as the user is inputting the static information tip is displayed to the user. Aiken discloses automatically focusing on the second data field, where the dependent data field representing the second data field is automatically accessible to the user for focusing, leading to inputting into the dependent data field (reference number 1406, Figure 14). Aiken discloses that the first static information tip is hidden from view with Figure 18 hiding the previous first static information tip that is displayed in Figure 16. Aiken discloses that in response to the user inputting and focusing on the second data field, a second static information tip proximate to the second data field is displayed (Figure 18). The first static information tip is displayed until the focus has moved onto another second data field. The user input is accepted and uninterrupted as the static tips are displayed (column 7, lines 16-17). During the information inputting into the first data field, a determination is made as to whether the parameter is erroneous and if so a further refocus is made to the first data field, by highlighting the data field (column 6, lines 27-34). A static information tip proximate to the first data field is displayed in order to correct the error that has been determined, with the information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the first data field (column 14, lines 48-61). Aiken does not clearly state the display of another third static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the third static information tip proximate to the first data field would be different from the first static information tip. Aiken discloses the use of various assistance components as per the input by the user and the appropriate parameter that

is considered valid at a first data field. Aiken further discloses as shown in Figures 3 and 12, how the same variables accepted within an input field when inputted erroneously can be displayed with varying types of static information tips based on the specific input of the user. Aiken does take into consideration the user input and display static information tips that are different from one another to display the error that would help in correcting the user's current input. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to display third static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field to correct any errors found in the first data field.

Referring to claim 12, Aiken discloses a system for displaying a static information tip and an error marker (Figures 1 and 3). Aiken discloses receiving an indication of focusing on a first data field, wherein the indication includes placement of a cursor on the first data field (column 6, lines 28-30). The inputting of a parameter onto the first data field involves placement of the cursor onto the data field. During the process of focusing on the data field, a first static information tip is displayed proximate to the first data field (column 6, lines 27-36). Aiken discloses that the static tip is displayed as the user is inputting each key or data item, therefore not interrupting data input into the first data field (column 7, lines 16-17), there as the user is inputting the static information tip is displayed to the user. During the information inputting into the first data field, a determination is made as to whether the parameter is erroneous and if so a further refocus is made to the first data field, by highlighting the data field (column 6, lines 27-34). The placement of the static information tip includes an error marker, with tip

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including marker symbols (Figure 12A). The refocusing of the first data field, involves bringing additional focusing automatically through highlighting to bring to attention the errors of the first data field (column 7, lines 43-45). A static information tip proximate to the first data field is displayed in order to correct the error that has been determined, with the information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the first data field (column 14, lines 48-61). Aiken does not clearly state the display of another second static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the second static information tip proximate to the first data field would be different from the first static information tip. Aiken discloses the use of various assistance components as per the input by the user and the appropriate parameter that is considered valid at a first data field. Aiken further discloses as shown in Figures 3 and 12, how the same variables accepted within an input field when inputted erroneously can be displayed with varying types of static information tips based on the specific input of the user. Aiken does take into consideration the user input and display static information tips that are different from one another to display the error that would help in correcting the user's current input. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to display second static tip that is different from the first static information tip that is displayed proximate to the first data field to correct any errors found in the first data field.

Referring to claim 16, Aiken discloses removing the third static information tip and the error marker in response to receiving correct data in the first data field (column 14, lines 13-18).

Referring to claim 17, Aiken discloses determining the errors of parameters in two fields that dependent on each other, where Aiken further discloses the ability to convey the errors for both fields simultaneously therefore teaching determining if the first and second data fields are erroneous simultaneously (column 14, lines 59-61).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 and 16-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach the method for displaying information tips.

Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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February 2, 2007

  
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